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Voice Of The People

Birch Society Termed Psychopathic And Bigoted

Editor of the Press Herald:

Having read some rather illogical defenses of the John Birch Society, I would like to offer my criticism of that organization. I favor the preservation of constitutional government in the United States, but I do not believe the activity of the society is directed toward that goal. If it is, the cost of achieving that goal through the society's measures is too great.

I first condemn the society for its continual irresponsible and unproved accusations—the farcical allegations of Communist activity and influence in every sector of American life: government, business, and organized religion. Society founder Robert Welch has labeled F. D. Roosevelt, H. S. Truman, D. D. Eisenhower, J. F. Dulles, CIA director Allen Dulles, Chief Justice Earl Warren and John F. Kennedy as Communists or Communist sympathizers. Welch has said that Americans received the direct Communist line from Kennedy.

The society ridiculously brands the following as "wicked, Communist, and dangerous:" U.S. participation in the U.N., the World Health Organization, UNICEF, General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), NATO, National Labor Relations Act, Social Security, urban renewal, fluoridation, the Federal Reserve System, the "mental health racket," federal aid to housing, all reciprocal trade agreements, all foreign aid, diplomatic relations with any Communist countries, TVA, and "deliberately fraudulent" U.S. bonds.

Secondly I condemn the society as a hotbed of bigotry—a congenital disease found in all extreme rightist movements. There exists an interlocking directory between society leaders and leaders of anti-Semitic, anti-Catholic, and anti-Negro hate groups. Billy James Hargis and Carl McIntire are notorious hate-mongers who have been prominent in movements supported by the society and Welch. Both of these men have been praised in articles published by the Forum Publishing Company of Boston, a well known source of hate literature. I cite the following quotations from such articles: "Our enemies are in the fol-

lowing order: . . . 3. Zionism, . . . 13. USSR." "Minorities who cannot or will not assimilate into the race do make for trouble, like eating an indigestible piece of meat. . ." "The colored races have ganged up on the white races."

The society recommends the writings of Edgar C. Bundy who claims that the Girl Scouts of America is a subversive organization.

Finally I must cite the society's outdated, isolationist policies in a world that only cosmopolitan and progressive attitudes can save from destruction. Acceptance of the status quo, i.e. the cold war and nation-state system, as permanent is comparable to the rejection of the principles of international peace and equality, and that rejection is exactly what the J.B. Society stands for.

In closing I feel obligated to inform the society's Portland advocates that I have had in my possession for three years the government's "Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications." My only regret is that there is no "Guide to the Absurd Extremism to the Right" in which the John Birch could receive its due.

Robert Ebenstein

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